

Green Lodging News

July/August 2007

Green Meetings & The EPA

Green meetings are rapidly becoming an important business opportunity for conference facilities. A green meeting or event incorporates environmental considerations to minimize its negative impact on the environment.

On May 1, 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised its Acquisition Regulations to

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Green Tip of the Month

Can't get enough Green Lodging information?

Visit www.greenlodgingnews.com to view information and resources about all things green lodging. You can find information and reviews on green products designed specifically for the lodging industry. As well as find advice on green lodging best practices.

You can also sign up for a weekly newsletter chronicling the state of the green lodging initiative throughout the country.

establish policies and procedures for acquiring environmentally preferred meeting and conference services. The revision gives preference to facilities which consume less and manage resources in an environmentally positive way. The EPA will consider environmental achievement along with such factors as price and past performance when buying meeting and conference space.

Facilities interested in hosting EPA events will be required to provide information about the environmentally preferable features and practices in use at their facilities. The following 14 questions will be asked of the facilities:

(1) Do you have a recycling

- program? If so, please describe.
(2) Do you have a linen/towel reuse option that is communicated to guests?
(3) Do guests have easy access to public transportation or shuttle services at your facility?
(4) Are lights and air conditioning turned off when rooms are not in use? If so, how do you ensure this?
(5) Do you provide bulk dispensers or reusable containers for beverages, food and condiments?
(6) Do you provide reusable serving utensils, napkins and tablecloths when food and beverages are served?
(7) Do you have an energy efficiency program? Describe.
(8) Do you have a water conservation program? Describe.
(9) Does your facility provide guests with paperless check-in & check-out?
(10) Does your facility use recycled or recyclable products? Please describe.
(11) Do you source food from local growers or take into account the growing practices of

farmers that provide the food? Please describe.

- (12) Do you use biobased or biodegradable products, including cafeteria? Please describe.
(13) Do you provide training to your employees on these green initiatives? Please describe.
(14) What other environmental initiatives have you undertaken, including any environment-related certifications you possess, EPA voluntary partnerships in which you participate, support of a green suppliers network, or other initiatives?

Other federal and state agencies are likely to follow in the EPA's footsteps, and at least one already has. Starting January 1, 2008, all Florida state agencies and departments will be required to do business only with Florida Green Lodging Program participants by Executive Order from Governor Charlie Crist.

Spotlight—RAM Center

The Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center is set on the north shores of Higgins Lake in Roscommon, Michigan. The RAM Center is a tranquil setting that allows groups to get away from the hustle and bustle of more urban counterparts to focus on the groups specific needs. The conference center offers modern facilities with an up north atmosphere.

The RAM Center incorporates many unique environmental initiatives at their facility. The conference center uses low VOC cleaning products, adhesives, and paints. They attempt to reduce solid wastes by avoiding single-serve packaging for food and single use kitchenware. The conference center also conserves energy by using Energy Star lights, office equipment, and furnaces.

You can learn more about the [Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center](#) and the [Green Lodging Michigan](#) program by visiting their websites.



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